FO 750/13

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N 1109

Refugees & Overpopulation

CLOSED UNTIL 1985

See 84/53
1955 file 39
Weeded Aug 1966
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FO 750/13

39/1954
Vol 1 Pt 1 — 50

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44

(SR 1111/39)

CONFIDENTIAL

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

June 25, 1954.

For ch it's immediate
labels, this arrived a week
too late - Ch has crossed my
report of 22nd Dear Peter, meeting X P.S.I. 7/7

I enclose a copy of a memorandum which was left with me on June 24 by M. Hasselman of the Netherlands Embassy, concerning the Netherlands proposals in the Council of Europe on the refugee problem.

2. The only real clarification which emerges from the memorandum is the fact that the Netherlands proposals are definitely related to those refugees who are within the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The other points are covered in the briefs which have been sent to you on this topic (CE Briefs 56, 62, 70 (54).

3. It is extremely doubtful whether the member governments of the Council of Europe would ever be in a position to raise the $5 million as suggested and in practice this would of course imply that the major part of this sum would have to be furnished by a few governments of goodwill. From the financial angle we cannot give any indication of willingness to undertake this burden.

4. The Netherlands arguments in paragraph 4 (b) seem to recognise the danger that the United Nations might be well content to leave the settlement of refugee problems to the Council of Europe. The obvious answer to this is that the Council of Europe should not commit itself in any way to the $12 million Fund proposals until the final decision of the United Nations General Assembly is known.

Yours ever,

Edward Warner

(E. R. Warner)

P.Y. Scarlett, Esq., C.M.G.,
STRASBOURG.

SUPPLEMENTARY MEMORANDUM OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT
REGARDING THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

Following the discussions during the 14th meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 and 20 May, 1954, on the problem of refugees and in addition to their relative Memorandum of 3 May, 1954, the Netherlands Government think it expedient to explain, as far as necessary, the purport of their proposals in the following respects.

1) The proposal of the Netherlands Government contained in their Memorandum of 3 May, 1954, is exclusively concerned with international refugees. The reason is that the relief of this group of refugees must be considered to be a task of the most urgent nature, as has been set forth in the Memorandum. Therefore the Netherlands Government's proposal should not be confounded with the plans of the Committee on Population and Refugees of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe to set up a fund for the assimilation of surplus elements of population. These plans refer to a much more comprehensive problem the responsibility for which rests in the first place with the Governments of those countries which have a surplus population consisting of persons of their own nationality. The question whether and, if so, to what extent international assistance would be required in order to solve this problem is at the moment being studied within the framework of the Council of Europe, but it is not in any way connected with the purposes aimed at by the Netherlands proposal which is exclusively concerned with one category of the European surplus population - a category which at the moment, from a humanitarian point of view, finds itself in a most tragic plight, viz. the international refugees who come under the jurisdiction of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

2) Therefore it is not the intention of the Netherlands Government to create within the framework of the

- Council -

Council of Europe new funds and a new machinery. Their proposal aims at securing the support of the Council of Europe for the initiatives that have already been taken by the competent agencies for the purpose of relieving the international refugees. The Netherlands Government have submitted this question to the Council of Europe because this problem is largely a European problem and because the European countries must now be considered to be quite capable of solving it as far as Europe is concerned. During the past few years it has appeared that the United Nations High Commissioner has received insufficient support within the framework of the United Nations so that even the most urgent requirements could not be met. As the Members of the Council of Europe have repeatedly stated that they are deeply interested in the refugee problem, there is now every reason to submit to the European countries themselves the question to consider whether it would be possible for them to take for their account at least the European part of the most indigent group of refugees. This especially applies to the "emergency cases" for whom the UNREF (United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund) has been set up. If the European countries undertake the responsibility for the care of these refugees as far as they are residing in Europe, Governments of countries outside Europe will no doubt be encouraged to render "emergency aid" to similar refugees outside Europe.

3) Therefore the Netherlands Government, in order to avoid duplication, deem it advisable that the Members of the Council of Europe associate themselves with the proposals of the High Commissioner for Refugees in this field as much as possible. This would imply:

a) The countries of the Council of Europe would have to collect a fund without security for the relief of emergency cases as soon as possible. In their Memorandum of 3 May the Netherlands Government have pointed out that there are approximately 10.000

emergency cases in Europe. For each individual case an amount of $ 500.- will be required. With an amount of five million dollars it will be possible practically to solve this problem. Therefore the Netherlands Government have suggested that the countries of the Council of Europe vote a pro rata contribution towards this amount based on their contribution towards the budget of the Council of Europe. The Netherlands Government have declared that they themselves are prepared to contribute 4% of this sum as their share. These contributions would have to be paid into the emergency fund of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the UNREF. The Netherlands Government have already informed the High Commissioner that this year they will pay into the UNREF an amount of $ 200.000.-.

b) As regards the proposal to raise a fund of $ 12,000.000.- within a period of five years, the Netherlands Government have suggested in their Memorandum of 3 May that the Committee of Ministers decide, in principle, to recommend to the Members of the Council of Europe to support the efforts which are at the moment being made by the international authorities responsible for the international refugees, to collect this amount. This matter would have to be further discussed by the Committee of Ministers, especially in consultation with the United Nations. For this purpose the United Nations High Commissioner has brought forward certain proposals within the framework of the United Nations. He has the intention of asking the United Nations Assembly to authorise the "Negotiating Committee for Extra Budgetary Funds" to exert all its energies to collect a fund for this purpose. As regards this project, too, the Netherlands Government suggest that the European countries assume the responsibility for the European part of it. To this end those

Members of the Council of Europe which are also Members of the United Nations could for instance inform the Negotiating Committee that they are prepared to do so, while those countries which are not Members of the United Nations could approach the High Commissioner for Refugees directly. The final procedure to be adopted in this respect could of course be the subject of further discussions.

4) The Netherlands Government trust that this explanation has elucidated the organisational aspects of their proposal. It would be regrettable if owing to a misunderstanding as to matters of competence and owing to the fear of duplication, the Council of Europe, before considering its position, were to wait and see what will be the result of the relief projects within the framework of the United Nations, or if certain Member-Governments of the United Nations would consider themselves released from their moral obligation to support UNREF or to accept further plans of the High Commissioner in the belief that the Council of Europe is going to take up the matter. We are dealing with one group of refugees and with one problem the responsibility for which devolves to a large extent on the European countries. The Netherlands Government's only intention is to address an appeal to the European countries to undertake the responsibility for a part of this task - an appeal for which the Council of Europe offers the most appropriate forum. When the European countries respond to this appeal they will be able to solve in the very near future a humanitarian problem of primary importance. The Netherlands Government are of the opinion that this will be possible and they hope that the Committee of Ministers will lend full support to their proposals.

39/43/54

(M 581/25)

RESTRICTED

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

July 2, 1954.

My dear Peter,

I enclose a copy of a letter the Director of Research, Council of Europe, has sent to the Director of our Central Statistical Office. The Central Statistical Office have not yet replied to this letter, as they are not particularly keen on checking the figures in this document which contains no less than 229 tables, unless we think it is really necessary for them to do so. They point out that as it is nothing more than a rehash of other United Nations and Specialised Agency publications, it seems a somewhat unnecessary document.

We agree with them entirely over this. Moreover, we cannot see what use the tables are going to be to the Committee on Population and Refugees, except possibly for the first 23, which deal with population and employment. The remaining 206 tables deal with National Income, Investment, United States Aid, Energy etc., etc., and would appear to have no bearing at all on the Committee's work. A further point is that we do not think it was proper for the Committee to instruct the Secretariat to consult national statistical offices.

it does not seem very serious to me Anyway this would be it.

We therefore propose to advise the Central Statistical Office to tell the Secretariat that as most of these tables are drawn from published sources to which Her Majesty's Government have contributed, there seems little need for further checking. But as there is no urgency, we should be glad to have your comments on the line we propose to take before we finally make up our minds.

Yours ever,

Kenneth Christofas

(K.C. Christofas)

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P.W.S.Y. Scarlett, Esq., C.M.G.,
STRASBOURG.

Copy.
(M.581/25)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

SECRETARIAT - GENERAL

Please quote: JD/MW

19 JUIN 1954

Sir,

The Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe was some time ago instructed by the Committee on Population and Refugees of the Consultative Assembly to compile a handbook of European Statistics.

The Committee suggested that this work should be carried out in consultation with the various national bureaux of statistics. I am accordingly forwarding to you under separate cover a number of copies of the preliminary edition prepared by the Secretariat.

I should be obliged if you would kindly make any necessary corrections and return the text with your suggestions and observations.

As we plan to publish the handbook in October, I should be grateful if you could let me have your corrections and comments by 15th September.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. von SCHMIEDEN

Director of Research

The Director,
Central Statistical Office,
Great George Street.

LONDON S.W.1.

39/38/54

FOTO-BtZ. 98379 6

SUPPLEMENTARY MEMORANDUM OF THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE REFUGEE PROBLEM.

Following the discussions during the 14th meeting of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 and 20 May, 1954, on the problem of refugees and in addition to their relative Memorandum of 3 May, 1954, the Netherlands Government think it expedient to explain, as far as necessary, the purport of their proposals in the following respects.

1) The proposal of the Netherlands Government contained in their Memorandum of 3 May, 1954, is exclusively concerned with international refugees. The reason is that the relief of this group of refugees must be considered to be a task of the most urgent nature, as has been set forth in the Memorandum. Therefore the Netherlands Government's proposal should not be confounded with the plans of the Committee on Population and Refugees of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe to set up a fund for the assimilation of surplus elements of population. These plans refer to a much more comprehensive problem the responsibility for which rests in the first place with the Governments of those countries which have a surplus population consisting of persons of their own nationality. The question whether and, if so, to what extent international assistance would be required in order to solve this problem is at the moment being studied within the framework of the Council of Europe, but it is not in any way connected with the purposes aimed at by the Netherlands proposal which is exclusively concerned with one category of the European surplus population - a category which at the moment, from a humanitarian point of view, finds itself in a most tragic plight, viz. the international refugees who come under the jurisdiction of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

2) Therefore it is not the intention of the Netherlands Government to create within the framework of the Council of Europe new funds and a new machinery. Their proposal aims at securing the support of the Council of Europe for the initiatives that have already been taken by the competent agencies for the purpose of relieving the international refugees. The Netherlands Government have submitted this question to the Council of Europe because this problem is largely a European problem and because the European countries must now be considered to be quite capable of solving it as far as Europe is concerned. During the past few years it has appeared that

-the-

the United Nations High Commissioner has received insufficient support within the framework of the United Nations so that even the most urgent requirements could not be met. As the Members of the Council of Europe have repeatedly stated that they are deeply interested in the refugee problem, there is now every reason to submit to the European countries themselves the question to consider whether it would be possible for them to take for their account at least the European part of the most indigent group of refugees. This especially applies to the "emergency cases" for whom the UNREF (United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund) has been set up. If the European countries undertake the responsibility for the care of these refugees as far as they are residing in Europe, Governments of countries outside Europe will no doubt be encouraged to render "emergency aid" to similar refugees outside Europe.

3) Therefore the Netherlands Government, in order to avoid duplication, deem it advisable that the Members of the Council of Europe associate themselves with the proposals of the High Commissioner for Refugees in this field as much as possible. This would imply:

a) The countries of the Council of Europe would have to collect a fund without security for the relief of emergency cases as soon as possible. In their Memorandum of 3 May the Netherlands Government have pointed out that there are approximately 10.000 emergency cases in Europe. For each individual case an amount of $ 500.- will be required. With an amount of five million dollars it will be possible practically to solve this problem. Therefore the Netherlands Government have suggested that the countries of the Council of Europe vote a pro rata contribution towards this amount based on their contribution towards the budget of the Council of Europe. The Netherlands Government have declared that they themselves are prepared to contribute 4% of this sum as their share. These contributions would have to be paid into the emergency fund of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the UNREF. The Netherlands Government have already informed the High Commissioner that this year they will pay into the UNREF an amount of $ 200.000.-.

b) As regards the proposal to raise a fund of $ 12,000.000.- within a period of five years, the Netherlands Government have suggested in their Memo-

randum of 3 May that the Committee of Ministers decide, in principle, to recommend to the Members of the Council of Europe to support the efforts which are at the moment being made by the international authorities responsible for the international refugees, to collect this amount. This matter would have to be further discussed by the Committee of Ministers, especially in consultation with the United Nations. For this purpose the United Nations High Commissioner has brought forward certain proposals within the framework of the United Nations. He has the intention of asking the United Nations Assembly to authorise the "Negotiating Committee for Extra Budgetary Funds" to exert all its energies to collect a fund for this purpose. As regards this project, too, the Netherlands Government suggest that the European countries assume the responsibility for the European part of it. To this end those Members of the Council of Europe which are also Members of the United Nations could for instance inform the Negotiating Committee that they are prepared to do so, while those countries which are not Members of the United Nations could approach the High Commissioner for Refugees directly. The final procedure to be adopted in this respect could of course be the subject of further discussions.

4) The Netherlands Government trust that this explanation has elucidated the organisational aspects of their proposal. It would be regrettable if owing to a misunderstanding as to matters of competence and owing to the fear of duplication, the Council of Europe, before considering its position, were to wait and see what will be the result of the relief projects within the framework of the United Nations, or if certain Member-Governments of the United Nations would consider themselves released from their moral obligation to support UNREF or to accept further plans of the High Commissioner in the belief that the Council of Europe is going to take up the matter. We are dealing with one group of refugees and with one problem the responsibility for which devolves to a large extent on the European countries. The Netherlands Government's only intention is to address an appeal to the European countries to undertake the responsibility for a part of this task - an appeal for which the Council of Europe offers the most appropriate forum. When the European countries respond to this appeal they will be able to solve in the very near future a humanitarian problem of primary importance. The Netherlands Government are of the opinion that this will be possible and they hope that the Committee of Ministers will lend full support to their proposals.

MINUTE SHEET.

Reference 39/23/54

Seen by Mrs Wynn 8/5

Mr. Scarlett.

The Netherlands proposal on the refugee problem (CM(54)85 has been placed on the agenda for the Deputies' meeting. We may or may not receive a brief from the Department before it comes up for discussion. In case not, here are some observations based on the proposal itself and on material on our file.

2. The Netherlands proposal is specifically restricted to international, as opposed to national, refugees. There can thus be no conflict with the activities of the Council of Europe Special Representative, M. Schneiter, whose mandate is limited to national refugees. The proposal falls into two halves:

(a) The first deals with the "hard core" refugees. It is pointed out that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has entirely inadequate funds for the maintenance of these people. It is estimated that $5,000,000 would suffice for their permanent maintenance. It is suggested that this sum should be collected through the Council of Europe and given to the United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund, ear-marked for use by the U.N.H.C.R. for this purpose.

(b) The second deals with refugees capable of work. It is estimated that all these refugees could be re-settled in a new job if a fund could be raised amounting to $12,000,000, over a period of five years, for use as a backing for loans to the refugees. It is thought that most of this money would ultimately be recovered. It is suggested that the Committee of Ministers would have to decide, in co-operation with other authorities responsible for the refugees' welfare, how to lay out this money. There is no specific suggestion that the U.N.H.C.R. should enter the field.

3. We know the Department's general views to be as follows. They are opposed to Council of Europe action on refugee questions. On past experience they are doubtful whether the launching of a new appeal would be followed by any very satisfactory financial response. They consider that the only effect of the appeal would be to raise hopes which would subsequently be disappointed. As regards the specific proposals,

(a) The U.K. has already given £100,000 to the U.N. fund in question. This constitutes one/third of contributions so far made to it. They feel the most satisfactory way of dealing with the "hard core" would be for other countries to follow our example.

(b) They say that the U.N.H.C.R. has already asked for the establishment of a fund on the lines proposed. His suggestion is to be considered by the E.C.O.S.O.C. later this year. As far as one can see, the Department's attitude to it there is likely to be negative, since they hold that the principle must be maintained that responsibility for integration of these refugees rests with the

/authorities

OVER

Wt. 50839/1245
2,500,000 4/40
D.P.W. 51-6580
(REGIMINT)
CODE 5-34-0

authorities of the countries where they reside.

4. My own strong feeling on all this is that responsibility for these international refugees should, morally speaking, be internationalised. The Netherlands Government view that it is shameful that after nine years the refugees have not been settled seems to me eminently reasonable. As regards the specific proposals,

(a) Our £100,000 is all very well, but it does not in fact represent a pro-rata contribution to the $5,000,000 held to be necessary. It would have to be roughly trebled to make it so. I really cannot see why H.M.G. should not make up its mind to tell the other governments of the Council of Europe that we would in fact treble it if they would contribute on the same basis. The Netherlands are already committed.

(b) The argument about not raising false hopes is unfortunately no longer valid, because M. Beyen has given the Netherlands Government proposal quite a send-off in a recent press conference which was well reported.

C J Audland

(C.J. Audland)
May 7, 1954

Wt. 50839/1245
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D.P.W. 51-6580
(REGIMINT)
CODE 5-34-0

OVER

39/21/54

(15)

RESTRICTED

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

April 29, 1954.

My dear Peter,

I enclose two copies of a letter we have received from the Secretary General of the Council of Europe suggesting that Monsieur Schneiter might address the next meeting of the Committee of Ministers.

Our reaction to this letter is that Ministers probably already have quite enough on their agenda to keep them busy for a day and a half. As, however, the Special Representatives' report would presumably be quite brief, we are prepared to agree that Monsieur Schneiter be given a hearing if (but only if) your colleagues are keen that he should be heard.

Yours ever,

Kenneth Christofas

(K.C. Christofas)

P.W.S.Y. Scarlett, Esq., C.M.G.,
Strasbourg.

CSA 6/5

With Germany in the chair I feel certain that M. Schneiter will have to be heard, so I think we can rely on the majority? RM

No. 3

H[illegible]Majesty's Ambassador at The Hague presents his compliments to Permanent U.K. Representative Strasbourg and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy,
The Hague

April 29, 1954

Reference to previous correspondence:

Description of Enclosure

Name and Date.	Subject.
Despatch to Foreign Office No. 111 of April 29, 1954	Refugees.

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CR(54) 85 Pt.
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39/20/54

BRITISH EMBASSY,
THE HAGUE.

RESTRICTED

No. 111

April 29, 1954.

(1821/4/54)

Sir,

In your despatch No. 85 of April 6 you instructed me to explain to the Netherlands Foreign Minister the misgivings of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the plans which he outlined during his recent visit to London for two funds for the assistance of European refugees. Mr. Beyen has been a frequent absentee from The Hague, and it was not until this morning, after he had taken his leave of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Denmark yesterday evening, that I was able to obtain an interview with him. He said that he was glad of the opportunity for a talk as he had just signed a letter to Mr. Nutting on this subject which he hoped would remove some of our apprehensions which had been conveyed to him through the Netherlands Embassy in London.

2. I told Mr. Beyen that it seemed that the two funds which he was now proposing, for five million and twelve million dollars respectively, coincided both in amount and in purpose with schemes already presented by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in New York. I asked whether it was now a question of four different funds or perhaps only of two; I mentioned that Her Majesty's Government were already contributing £100,000 to the five million dollar Emergency Fund proposed by Dr. van Heuven Goedhart. Mr. Beyen had hastened to assure me that it was a question of only two funds: indeed he told me that the only refugee fund at present in existence was that known as I.C.E.M.; he clearly did not regard Dr. Goedhart's plans as very substantial, and he had no knowledge of our contribution already made to the smaller of them - he said that he would look into this point at once.

3. When I pressed the point about duplication and suggested that to superimpose a proposal confined to the European nations at

The Right Honourable
Anthony Eden, M.C., M.P.,

/Strasbourg

Strasbourg on a wider plan already put forward to the United Nations as a whole might discourage contributions from non-European nations, Mr. Beyen explained his point of view further. This was that the plans for the refugees with whom his two proposals were concerned were for the settlement of European refugees in other countries in Europe and that these were not the purposes towards which non-European nations could ~~not~~ hopefully or indeed reasonably be asked to contribute - the interest of these nations was immigration for which the I.C.E.M. fund existed: he said that the United States, for instance, had made it clear that they would make no further substantial contribution to the integration of Europeans in Europe. His further point was that the West German Government was already discharging a great task in settling its own refugees from East Germany: he did not think that the settling of alien refugees in a host country in Europe was a responsibility which should be left exclusively to the host country. The Ford Foundation had made a grant permitting a start on the work of resettling alien refugees in European countries, and he believed that many advances to them could eventually be repaid by them. Contributions to the funds need not of course be in dollars: this was mentioned only as an accounting figure.

4. I then referred to the poor response to Dr. Goedhart's Emergency Fund, apart from our own, and to our misgiving that financial backing for the larger loan would not be forthcoming and thereby false hopes would be raised in the minds of those unfortunates for whom H.M.G. felt and had demonstrated a very real sympathy: I asked whether Mr. Beyen knew that the Belgian Government, for instance, were prepared to contribute. Mr. Beyen did not know; but he clearly thought that it should be possible to raise the sums contemplated in his two proposals.

5. I asked also whether he had already circulated a note on the subject at Strasbourg, as the Foreign Office were anxious

/to

to have previous consultation with him. He told me that the note had already been circulated, but as he had written in his letter to Mr. Nutting, he would welcome our reactions in advance of the meeting. In answer to my further questions he said that his note would come before the Permanent Deputies on May 11 or 12 and then before the Ministers on May 18.

6. Two further incidental points that came up were that Mr. Beyen mentioned Greece, in addition to Germany, Italy and Austria, as countries in which non-national refugees might be settled and integrated, and secondly that Mr. Schneiter had intimated that he would confine his work to refugees desiring to emigrate.

7. At the close of our talk Mr. Beyen called for and handed to me the enclosed copy of a memorandum which I now see appears to be a copy of the note which has been circulated at Strasbourg. He mentioned also that the Netherlands Ambassador in London would not be able to communicate his letter to Mr. Nutting before Monday next, May 3.

8. Since I dictated the above Mr. Beyen has telephoned to me to say that the proposal is that the five million dollar Emergency Fund proposed by Dr. Goedhart should be incorporated in the similar fund which the Netherlands Government are proposing at Strasbourg: H.M.G.'s contribution of £100,000 would therefore, if the Dutch proposal goes through, become presumably their contribution to the new fund. I enquired whether this had been concerted with Dr. Goedhart, but was left in doubt as to the exact position in this connexion.

9. I am sending a copy of this despatch, without its enclosure, to the United Kingdom Permanent Representatives to the United Nations at New York, and to the Permanent Delegate

/at

Geneva, to the United Kingdom Delegation in Paris and to the Permanent United Kingdom Representative to the Council of Europe at Strasbourg.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

USR 1111/17

No. 17

CONFIDENTIAL

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to His Majesty's Representative at

STRASBOURG

and transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper.

Foreign Office,

7th April, 1954

12 APR 1954

REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE:

—

DESCRIPTION OF ENCLOSURE

Name and Date	Subject
Despatch 85 to The Hague	U.N.R.E.F.

What a very half baked proposal! PM 2074

Pass to CRA 14/4

A similar despatch has been addressed to His Majesty's Representative/~~Consular Officer~~ at UK Del New York, UK Del Geneva, UK Del Paris

39/18/54

No. 85
(USR 1111/17)
CONFIDENTIAL

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.
April 6, 1954

Sir,

When I received the Netherlands Foreign Minister on the 29th of March, His Excellency informed me that the Netherlands representative on the Council of Europe would take the initiative in proposing a plan for disposing of the hard core of European refugees, who were mostly in Germany, Austria and Trieste. Monsieur Beyen thought that the hopeless cases could be cared for by the "existing $5 million emergency fund", but that the others could best be dealt with by a new revolving fund of $12 million which should be raised by the members of the Council of Europe and applied for the purposes of integration and resettlement. Monsieur Beyen asked if Her Majesty's Government would support this proposal. I undertook to have the matter studied.

2. The Netherlands Embassy were subsequently asked to elucidate Monsieur Beyen's proposal, with particular reference to the existing United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund and a proposal by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Dr. van Heuven Goedhart, that a new revolving fund of $12 million should be established for the same pruposes as Monsieur Beyen had in mind.

3. For Your Excellency's confidential information, the Netherlands Embassy made enquiries in The Hague by telephone, and the Department were frankly informed that Monsieur Beyen's

/ initiative

His Excellency
Sir Nevile Butler, K.C.M.G., C.V.O.,
etc., etc., etc.,
THE HAGUE.

initiative seemed to have been premature as the matter had not yet been discussed in the Netherlands Council of Ministers, who were likely to consider the question on the 5th of April. Meanwhile, it was not possible to say whether there was any connexion between what Monsieur Beyen had in mind for the Council of Europe to do and the existing United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund and Dr. Goedhart's proposal for a $12 million for integration and resettlement. It was, however, intended to send a note containing Monsieur Beyen's proposals to the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, with copies to member Governments.

4. On the information available, the Netherlands Embassy were informed that Monsieur Beyen's proposals for action by the Council of Europe were likely to be embarrassing to Her Majesty's Government, who had all along been opposed to action on refugee matters in the Council of Europe and to the appointment of the Eminent European Personality. Her Majesty's Government were most anxious that there should be no duplication in the handling of refugee matters by international organisations. So far as emergency relief for the hopeless cases was concerned, there already existed a United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund, authorised by the General Assembly. Her Majesty's Government had great sympathy with the purpose of this fund, and had contributed £100,000. The United Kingdom contribution was still one-third of the total amount contributed to this fund. If Governments wished to give further help for the hopeless cases, it was open to them to contribute to the United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund.

6. As regards the question of a new revolving fund of $12 million for integration and resettlement, such a proposal had already been made by the United Nations High Commissioner and would be considered by the Economic and Social Council at its summer session at Geneva. When this proposal had been made in the High Commissioner's Advisory Committee in March, the United Kingdom

/ member

member had been obliged to question where the funds would come from, in view of the comparatively poor response to the United Nations High Commissioner's existing Emergency Fund appeal. The Netherlands Embassy were asked whether the Netherlands Government's intention was to seek support in the Council of Europe for the scheme already suggested by Dr. Goedhart in the United Nations.

7. The hope was expressed to the Netherlands Embassy that there would be informal and confidential consultation between Governments concerned before any further schemes affecting refugees were publicly launched. It was most important to make sure that financial backing would be forthcoming before the schemes received publicity. Premature publicity could only raise false hopes among the refugees themselves and, in the case of suggestions for an international fund of an operational character, might only result in individual Governments going slow with their own measures for integration and resettlement, in the hope of financial help from outside. It was, in the view of Her Majesty's Government, most important that responsibility for integration and resettlement should rest with the Governments of the countries in which the refugees resided.

8. The Netherlands Embassy subsequently informed the Department that the proposals for which Monsieur Beyen had asked my support on the 29th of March would be put forward entirely on the responsibility of the Netherlands Government and were not connected with the existing United Nations Refugee Emergency Fund or Dr. Goedhart's recent suggestion for a $12 million revolving fund for integration and resettlement. Monsieur Beyen's proposals were said to be in line with the appeal which was made by Her Majesty Queen Juliana to President Eisenhower on the 18th of March, 1953, and which formed the subject of Your Excellency's despatches of the 1st and 29th of April, 1953.

/ 9.

9. Whatever the origin of Monsieur Beyen's proposals, I attach considerable importance to confidential consultation between Governments before any such schemes are launched publicly, for the reasons explained above. I shall be glad, therefore, if Your Excellency will make an early approach to the Netherlands Minister for Foreign Affairs and inform him of the attitude of Her Majesty's Government as set out above, and as already indicated to the Netherlands Embassy. It is most undesirable that there should be divided responsibility and duplication in the matter of refugees, and I do not wish the Netherlands Government to be left in any doubt about our attitude. It would, in my view, be most undesirable for them to make proposals in the Council of Europe, on the lines indicated to me by Monsieur Beyen on the 29th of March. Such action could only cause confusion in the handling of similar matters in the United Nations and have the regrettable effect of raising false hopes among refugees, and possibly deferring Governments of countries of residence from facing up to their responsibility in the hope of international financial help.

10. This despatch has been copied to the United Kingdom Permanent Representatives to the United Nations at New York, and to the Permanent Delegate at Geneva, to the United Kingdom Delegation in Paris and to the Permanent United Kingdom Representative to the Council of Europe at Strasbourg.

I am with great truth and respect,
Sir,
Your Excellency's obedient Servant,
(For the Secretary of State)

39/11/54

(M 581/8)

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

UNCLASSIFIED

February 23, 1954.

3 MAR 1954

Dear Audland,

I am a bit worried by the full stop after "Europe" on page 21 of CSL(54)8, fifth line from the bottom. I suspect it should be omitted, and that it is accordingly the Special Representative who is to be invited to seek ways and means of implementing the plan. But in that case, why the (ii)? If comparison with the French text does not shed any light on this, perhaps you would have a word with the Secretariat and let me know just what it is the Special Liaison Committee are recommending.

Yours sincerely,

R.C. Hope-Jones

(R. C. Hope-Jones)

C. J. Audland, Esq.,
STRASBOURG.

Pse let me see wh French & English texts look

is the reply of CSA 5/3 CSA 2/3

Problem of national refugees and over population in Europe. 1954. MS Refugee Records from the Foreign Office, 1947-1970 FO 750/13. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). Refugees, Relief, and Resettlement, link.gale.com/apps/doc/IJQYLY280480327/RRRW?u=omni&sid=bookmark-RRRW&pg=1. Accessed 7 Jan. 2025.